

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

Unofficial Copy  
P1

2003 Regular Session  
3lr0377

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By: **Delegates Kelly, Amedori, Boschert, Boutin, Cadden, C. Davis, Edwards, Kach, Myers, Oaks, O'Donnell, Owings, Shank, Wood, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Changing the Name of Ravens' Stadium to "Johnny Unitas Stadium"**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the owners of the Baltimore Ravens professional football  
4 franchise to change the name of Ravens' Stadium to "Johnny Unitas Stadium".

5 WHEREAS, While John Unitas was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and  
6 played college football at the University of Louisville, in Kentucky, once he was  
7 drafted by the Baltimore Colts in 1956, he adopted Baltimore as his hometown where  
8 he chose to reside not only during the football season but all year around; and

9 WHEREAS, Known to everyone as Johnny Unitas, when he retired from  
10 professional football in 1973, after playing for the Baltimore Colts for 17 seasons and  
11 the San Diego Chargers for one season, he was the most decorated passer in history.  
12 His most impressive statistical achievement may well have been his 47 straight  
13 games with at least one touchdown pass, a record that still stands; and

14 WHEREAS, As quarterback for the Baltimore Colts, Johnny Unitas will be  
15 linked forever with the famous 1958 National Football League (NFL) championship  
16 game against the New York Giants that has been called the NFL's greatest game ever.  
17 The Baltimore Colts' 23-17 overtime victory at Yankee Stadium in 1958 has long been  
18 described as a major factor in launching the NFL to its current status; and

19 WHEREAS, After Johnny Unitas led the Baltimore Colts to NFL titles in 1958  
20 and 1959, helped them win Super Bowl V, was chosen to five all-league teams, was  
21 Player of the Year three times, and played in 10 Pro Bowls, the Baltimore Colts  
22 retired his jersey number, No. 19, on October 9, 1977; and

23 WHEREAS, Johnny Unitas was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on  
24 July 28, 1979; and

25 WHEREAS, The owners of several sporting franchises across the country have  
26 avoided selling the name of their facility to a corporate sponsor as evidenced by Paul  
27 Brown Stadium named after the founder of the Cincinnati Bengals, the Georgia  
28 Dome, Soldier Field in Chicago, and the Cleveland Browns Stadium; and

1 WHEREAS, Over 57,000 individuals have signed an on-line petition to rename  
2 Ravens' Stadium after Johnny Unitas; and

3 WHEREAS, The residents of Maryland have mourned the loss of the Baltimore  
4 Colts, the loss of Memorial Stadium, and now mourn the loss of the greatest  
5 quarterback the NFL has ever seen; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
7 owners of the Baltimore Ravens' franchise are urged to honor this great Baltimore  
8 hero by renaming Ravens' Stadium as "Johnny Unitas Stadium"; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
10 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;  
11 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and  
12 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.